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CUBAN REVOLUTION THREATENED

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[Redacted]

There is considerable popular opposition to the Batista regime, but heretofore the army has been considered sufficiently loyal to bar any successful revolutionary attempt. Whether or not the present disaffection in the armed services is sufficient to pose a threat to Batista is not yet clear.

There has, however, been increasing evidence of late that members of the armed forces are associated with various revolutionary factions, some of which are in alliance with the group of anti-Batista exiles headed by ex-President Carlos Prio Socarras, who was deposed by Batista in March 1952. That Batista is aware of the deterioration of loyalty and is willing to take extreme measures to maintain control is indicated by the arrests of more than 50 service personnel since 20 September. There was also an unprecedented police raid on the campus of the University of Havana on 23 September.

Nevertheless, Batista has, particularly since his suspension of civil liberties following the abortive revolt of 26 July at Santiago de Cuba, claimed the complete loyalty of the armed forces.

Although the groups opposed to Batista are not united, there has been considerable unanimity in the demand for elections under the constitution of 1940 and the electoral code of 1943, both replaced by Batista's statutes. The Prio group, which includes leaders of Cuba's two largest political parties, [redacted] hopes to reinstall Prio for the balance of his term.

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